

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
April 22, 2021 – Via Zoom

**Present:** Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, Chris Bartlett, Matt Spohn, Chris Winslow, Lee Ferreira, Richard Updegrove, Dave Ferkinhoff, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Absent:** David Spengler and Peter Collins

Jennifer began the meeting with prayer at 6:02 p.m.

**Reconnecting with each other, in the presence of God.**

Discussion of Chapter 2 in the *Vestry Resource Guide*.

Question #1 – What are the strengths of our Vestry?

- We have some really smart professionals that have the talents and skills necessary to run things
- We communicate well
- We have respect for one another
- Some folks have lots of experience, some folks are new – both perspectives give us a rich diversity of viewpoints and opinions
- We are open to encouraging leaders from a wide spectrum of members
- The openness of this Zoom forum is really an advantage – people might be more willing to share and are less self-conscious than they might be in person
- Everyone is willing to participate – no one monopolizes the conversation
- We are accountable to one another
- Many gifts are required to lead and we honor each other's gifts
- We trust each other.

Question #2 – What are some weaknesses?

- Some members of the Vestry lack experience (This can be a strength and a weakness.)
- We need a better way to ensure continuity with those Vestry members and officers who have gone before and have a wealth of knowledge and history that could be valuable.
- We need a more transparent nominating process – maybe build a committee to share this job?

For May we should read Chapter 3 and review the questions at the end.

**Updates from the Rector**

***Moving Forward Taskforce***

The Task Force is still in the midst of a well-deserved pause. They will resume meeting next week.

We continue to have sound-system issues, so the Task Force has decided to hire a professional sound technician to help on Sunday mornings.

### ***Safe Church***

The Diocese is in the process of updating and recrafting this initiative. We are going to wait until they have completed this task before doing anything.

### **Goals Discussion for 2021 – Jennifer**

Jennifer reworked the Suggested Focus and Goals to reflect 3 areas:

1. Mission and Ministry
2. Fiduciary and Financial
3. Administrative

The last two areas are pretty much in process right now, and what we need to work on is the Mission and Ministry area.

One of the primary tools for implementing much of what was discussed is to find new leadership for the *Invite, Welcome, Connect* ministry. Matt suggested that we ask, in the next ENews, if someone might be interested in joining or leading this ministry.

Jennifer will send out the written draft of goals and focus areas to all members of the Vestry.

### **Junior Warden Update – George LeBlanc**

George summed up some of the key points from his written report.

- One new furnace has already been installed in Gibbs House/Sea Rose; the second one is due to be installed very shortly.
- Volunteers will help clean and stain the Parish House – which will start in June
- Parking lots will be sealed – just waiting on a confirmed date.
- Jon Walker, Marlo, Lynn, and George worked hard to stain the Worship Shed. Thank you all!
- Debbie Timby has selected some new trees and shrubs for planting.
- Motion detector lights will be installed on the Rectory.

There are several, more costly projects that are being looked at for 2022. George is putting together a list so that if people are so inspired to donate money for these projects, they know what is needed.

Jennifer thanked George for all this hard work!

### **Diocesan Solar Project**

Dave B. has been attending the meetings discussing this opportunity and after describing the overall project and our possible participation in it, made the following motion

I make a motion that we sign the Letter of Intent for the Episcopal Camp RI Solar project, with the selection of the zero-cost option, which affords us a projected savings of 20%.

The motion was seconded by George L. and passed unanimously.

David B. and Chris B., will review all participation options over the summer and make the final decision as to what level of support we can afford in time to make a final commitment, sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The length of commitment is 25 years.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Richard U. and seconded by Chris W. that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the March Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk